



Town of Mesilla, New Mexico

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TOWN OF MESILLA

BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2016

6:00 P.M.

TRUSTEES: Nora L. Barraza, Mayor
Linda L. Flores, Mayor Pro Tem
Carlos Arzabal, Trustee
Sam Bernal, Trustee
Stephanie Johnson-Burick, Trustee

STAFF: Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Town Clerk/Treasurer
Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief
Debbie Lujan, Public Works Director
Chris Mangusing, Marshal
Irene Parra, Special Events Coordinator
Gloria Maya, Recorder

PUBLIC: Benjamin Arguella Erick Robinson
Tamra McLeod Shelley Martin

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Barraza led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Barraza stated that a Moment of Silence is held for residents that have passed away but the family has requested that it not be held.

2. ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Roll Call.

1 **Present:** Mayor Barraza, Mayor Pro Tem Flores, Trustee Bernal, Trustee Arzabal, Trustee Johnson-
2 Burick.

3
4 **3. CHANGES/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

5 **Motion:** To approve the agenda, **Moved by** Trustee Arzabal, **Seconded by** Trustee Bernal.

6
7 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = 4).

8 Mayor Pro Tem Flores Yes

9 Trustee Arzabal Yes

10 Trustee Bernal Yes

11 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

12
13 **4. PRESENTATIONS:**

- 14 a. Presentation to Sam Bernal for his years of dedicated service as Trustee for the Town of
15 Mesilla. – **Nora L. Barraza, Mayor.**

16 Mayor Barraza made a presentation to Trustee Bernal and thanked him for his professionalism and
17 service he gave to the Town of Mesilla as a trustee and a commissioner of the Planning and Zoning.

18
19 Trustee Bernal thanked all the board of trustees. He stated he always tried to go with his heart and was
20 always here for the community. He thanked the mayor for her actions and for making everything work
21 during the last election. Thanked the board for their efforts and time in making these hard decisions. He
22 asked the board to stay focused. The mayor has guided the staff in the right direction and he hopes we
23 continue to go forward and work together. Thanked the staff staying during the recession years and for
24 making it work. Everyone has made it go forward. God Bless you all.

25
26 **5. PUBLIC INPUT** – The public is invited to address the Board for up to 3 minutes.

27 Mrs. Krueger thanked Trustee Bernal for his service. The library survey was not printed on the
28 November water bill; it was a strip that was glued on the bill. The Post Office Postmaster said it probably
29 came off when it went through the process. She tried to get some follow up input was unable to get done
30 in a timely manner.

31
32 **6. *APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – The Board will be asked to approve by one**
33 **motion the following items of recurring or routine business. The Consent Agenda is marked**
34 **with an asterisk *:**

35 Mayor Barraza asked to remove items 6c and f removed from the consent agenda.

1 **Motion:** To approve the consent agenda as amended, **Moved by** Mayor Pro Tem Flores, **Seconded by**
2 Trustee Arzabal.

3

4 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = 4).

5 Mayor Pro Tem Flores Yes

6 Trustee Arzabal Yes

7 Trustee Bernal Yes

8 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

9

10 a. ***BOT MINUTES** – Regular Meeting minutes of February 8, 2016. *Approved by consent*
11 *agenda*

12 b. ***PZHAC Case 012435** – 2100 Calle de Principal, submitted by Armando Maldonado for
13 San Albino Church, a request for a building permit to install a bulletin board outside the front
14 of the church at the west side entrance. Zoned: Historical Commercial (HC). *Approved by*
15 *consent agenda*

16 c. ***PZHAC Case 012501** – 1891 Avenida de Mesilla, submitted by Cali Szczawinski for
17 Meson de Mesilla, a request for a building permit to place a mural of a Zia symbol on the
18 front of the hotel. Zoned: General Commercial (C).

19 Mayor Barraza stated the Zia symbol is already painted on the building.

20

21 Mr. Shannon indicated he will be citing her once again.

22

23 Mayor Barraza stated the Hotel Mesilla sign has four lights that are facing up instead of down.

24

25 Mr. Shannon responded they were approved for lights; the code requires that lights face down.

26

27 Mayor Barraza stated there are lights on the Grill part of the sign but not on the rest. She remembers at
28 one time there was painted chili across the top and now she sees an awning; was that approved by
29 Planning and Zoning.

30

31 Mr. Shannon responded yes they required murals would be covered by portals above the signs; it was in
32 the drawing presented.

33

34 Mayor Barraza stated there is a circle that is lighted where the barrels are; was that approved by Planning
35 and Zoning.

36

1 Mr. Shannon responded the light was supposed to be inside the object. The four ristras would be lit and
2 would replace the grapes. He has not seen the lighting so he will go by in the evening.

3
4 Mayor Barraza stated she was concerned with the Zia symbol being done prior to being approved by the
5 board.

6
7 Mr. Shannon responded the painting went up last Wednesday.

8
9 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated she understands that Ms. Szczawinski has been told that these things
10 cannot be done, by businesses and residents, until approved by the board. The circle thing looks like a
11 metal décor.

12
13 Mr. Shannon responded Ms. Szczawinski did mention it would be three-dimension metal; it was on the
14 plans.

15
16 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated she misunderstood. She thanked staff for doing the research on the Zia
17 symbol.

18
19 **Motion:** To approve **PZHAC Case 012501** – 1891 Avenida de Mesilla, submitted by Cali Szczawinski
20 for Meson de Mesilla, a request for a building permit to place a mural of a Zia symbol on the front of the
21 hotel with the condition that a fine be assessed, **Moved by** Trustee Arzabal, **Seconded by** Trustee
22 Johnson-Burick.

23
24 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = 4).

25 Mayor Pro Tem Flores Yes

26 Trustee Arzabal Yes

27 Trustee Bernal Yes

28 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

29
30 **d. *PZHAC Case 012502** - 1891 Avenida de Mesilla, submitted by Cali Szczawinski for
31 Meson de Mesilla, a request for a permit to place an entrance sign to her property from an
32 adjacent parking lot leased by her. Zoned: General Commercial (C). ***Approved by consent***
33 ***agenda***

34 **e. *PZHAC Case 012503** – 2422 Calle de Santiago, submitted by Varinia Lara; a request for a
35 building permit to allow four (4) doors and the trim to be repainted on a dwelling at this
36 address. Zoned: Historical Residential (HR). ***Approved by consent by consent agenda***

1 **f. *PZHAC Case 012506 w/ Condition** – 2600 Avenida de Mesilla, submitted by Palacio’s
2 Bar, a request for a building permit to allow an outdoor seating area to be constructed at this
3 address. Zoned: Historic Residential (HR).

4 **Motion:** to approve PZHAC Case 012506 w/Condition – 2600 Avenida de Mesilla, submitted by
5 Palacio’s Bar, a request for a building permit to allow an outdoor seating area to be construction at this
6 address, **Moved by** Trustee Arzabal, **Seconded by** Trustee Johnson-Burick.

7
8 Trustee Arzabal asked what happens if the property used for parking is sold.

9
10 Mr. Shannon responded the business will need to come into compliance with the parking regulations and
11 fees would be applied.

12
13 Trustee Arzabal asked if the building is on the state historical register; did we get something from State
14 Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

15
16 Mr. Shannon responded yes but it is not a historic building so it is not a requirement that we contact
17 SHPO.

18
19 Trustee Arzabal asked if we need to get info from the Department of Transportation (DOT) since it is so
20 close to the brick.

21
22 Mr. Shannon responded he spoke to the applicant that they need to speak to the highway department.
23 He is not aware of any conditions placed by the highway department.

24
25 Mayor Barraza asked why would they not want to put the patio on the south side instead of abutting the
26 street. She is thinking of it as a safety issue. Spotted Dog has a fenced off area but the capacity at the
27 Spotted Dog is a lot less than Palacio. She asked if there was any discussion regarding placing the patio
28 in another area.

29
30 Mr. Shannon responded it would work better in the front due to the floor plan. The parking lot is a
31 difference in the way it enters into the building. He believes the reasons for placing it in the front of the
32 building is it works with the floor plan and also it lends to the atmosphere.

33
34 Mayor Barraza asked how will the ponding area going to be addressed.
35

1 Mr. Shannon responded there will be an awning above the seating area. He has not received any plans on
2 how that will be addressed. The building inspector will have to look into that.

3
4 Mayor Barraza asked if they are looking at a covered patio.

5
6 Mr. Shannon responded it will be covered by an awning. The wall will need to meet the federal
7 requirements with controlled access.

8
9 Mayor Barraza stated she has concerns with it being so close to the road. There are no lights at that
10 intersection. This will increase in capacity; therefore, the parking spaces required will increase. She
11 asked if all this has been addressed.

12
13 Mr. Shannon responded the motorcycle area will be moved to the west. There will be about a 400 square
14 feet increase which will require 4 to 5 more parking spaces.

15
16 Mayor Barraza stated it will require more than 4 parking spaces. She asked if all this has been addressed.

17
18 Mr. Shannon responded he is waiting for a written permission from Mr. Lujan for the use of the property.

19
20 Mayor Barraza asked if the parking will need to be fixed to come into compliance for a parking lot.

21
22 Mr. Shannon responded he believes they will.

23
24 Mayor Barraza stated there are questions that need to be answered before moving forward.

25
26 Trustee Arzabal stated it seems that the plans are incomplete; no awning or drainage.

27
28 **Amend Motion:** To postpone until a complete plan is submitted and the contractor is attendance to
29 answer questions on **PZHAC Case 01250** 2600 Avenida de Mesilla, submitted by Palacio's Bar, a
30 request for a building permit to allow an outdoor seating area to be constructed at this address. Zoned:
31 Historic Residential (HR), **Moved by** Trustee Arzabal, **Seconded by** Trustee Johnson-Burick.

32
33 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = 4).

34 Mayor Pro Tem Flores Yes

35 Trustee Arzabal Yes

36 Trustee Bernal Yes

1 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

2

3 Fire Chief Hoban asked what is the plan for ADA compliance parking and are there going to be changes
4 to exit egress. Exits must be in compliance with the fire code.

5

6 Mayor Barraza stated she has concerns being located in front; if it were on the south side it would be
7 better. This is a public safety issue.

8

9 **7. NEW BUSINESS:**

10 **a. For Approval: audit report for fiscal year 2014-2015. – Erick Robinson of Integrity**
11 **Accounting, LLC.**

12 Mr. Robinson gave a presentation of the audit report for fiscal year 2014-2015.

13

14 Mayor Barraza stated Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez and Ms. Maya have done a wonderful job in working
15 together in addressing the concerns we have over the past years. They do not hesitate to contact Mr.
16 Robinson when they have questions or concerns. You have done a wonderful job in guiding them.

17 Take advantage of the Incode we have to rectify problems. They both worry when there is a finding
18 especially Ms. Maya; she is very contentious of making sure everything is done correctly and properly.
19 She has seen the finance department polishing itself. With Mr. Robinson's expertise and guidance, they
20 have come a long way.

21

22 Mr. Robinson responded he has seen it from his side; they are heading in the right direction.

23

24 Mayor Barraza indicated she is very pleased with the audit.

25

26 Trustee Johnson-Burick indicated she is pleased that we have eliminated some of the findings; has seen an
27 improvement. When she went to the State Auditor she pulled up the Town of Mesilla's audits and saw a
28 finding trend from 2008 to 2012 where the town was not following the generally accounting principles.
29 In 2013, 2014 and 2015 there is a weakness in both cash control and material auditor adjustments.

30 She is concerned, brought this up last year, with the auditor adjustments we could be misstating our
31 financial statements and as trustees we are responsible of the town's finances. She believes we spoke
32 about changing the reconciliation last year.

33

34 Mr. Robinson responded he remembers it being discussed but not identified as a problem until we started
35 the audit. That is exactly why it is a finding. Through the course of the audit it is identified. It is a
36 systemic break if those adjustments are not caught in house; we cannot be relied upon to do that. You

1 need to get where you identify all those items; capturing those before it comes to us. This could lead to a
2 problem when going out for funding. Mesilla is still not where it should be. One of their requirements is
3 that we follow up on findings; where are they going with it.

4
5 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated more training and experience helps us move forward.

6
7 **Motion:** To approve audit report for the fiscal year 2014-2015, **Moved by** Trustee Arzabal, **Seconded by**
8 Trustee Bernal.

9
10 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = 4).

11 Mayor Pro Tem Flores Yes

12 Trustee Arzabal Yes

13 Trustee Bernal Yes

14 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

15
16 **b. For Discussion: Results of the Town of Mesilla Library Services Survey. – Cynthia**
17 **Stoehner-Hernandez, Clerk/Treasurer.**

18 Ms. Stoehner-Hernandez gave a report of the Library Services Survey.

19
20 Mayor Pro Tem Flores asked if it could be cut off at a certain amount.

21
22 Ms. Stoehner-Hernandez responded once it hits the budgeted amount we will be asked if we want to
23 continue.

24
25 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated she liked that the residents are interested in resource centers which
26 encompasses all of the community and residents. She appreciated that comment.

27
28 **8. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

29 Trustee Bernal stated we take life for granted and do not realize the sacrifices made by our family. He
30 thanked his wife for always being on his side. We are a small Mesilla family and still made an impact.

31 Doors have opened up for us and we have been grateful for us.

32
33 Mayor Pro Tem Flores thanked Mrs. Bernal for lending us her husband; it was a sacrifice. We need to
34 ensure political signs are not on public easements; follow the process and be fair

1 Trustee Arzabal stated Trustee Bernal is the man of service whether it is civil service, commissioner of
2 the Planning and Zoning and as a trustee. He did a lot at the public schools and I'm sure he will continue
3 to serve where he can. Thanked Trustee Bernal for his service.

4
5 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated in October they were informed that our Christmas Eve activities would be
6 in the Southwest Magazine. We were not featured in the November or December issues; she was
7 disappointed. A reminder we cannot go on private property to remove political signs. It has been an
8 absolute honor and privilege to share the last 2 years with you (to Trustee Bernal). Thanked Trustee
9 Bernal for his patience, support, understanding, knowledge and being committed to Mesilla. The
10 President's Day weekend the plaza was filled with people. It was a beautiful day in our community, made
11 me so proud and made me realize why I love Mesilla.

12
13 Mayor Barraza stated MRVDA sent out invitation for the ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, March 4th at
14 11:00 a.m. She is happy to hear they will be moving in. She is hoping that by our next meeting our
15 Public Safety Building will be completed; there will be an update in two weeks. We will have a
16 presentation on the designation of Las Colonias. There are so many opportunities for the community if
17 we are a designated a Colonia. As stated in the newspaper, New Mexico is not in the best shape with
18 regards to Capital Outlay. We need to see how we can address the infrastructure needs of the town.
19 Truth or Consequence just went through that designation. See if the board would like to move forward
20 with that. March 1st is Election Day; remind everyone to vote. The South Central Transit District
21 launched their buses today. Mesilla is one of the stops. We are very excited about it; the trial phase was
22 very successful. The New Mexico Municipal League District meeting will be Friday, March 18th in Silver
23 City. The newly elected officials institute will be Saturday, March 19th at Hotel Encanto. Thanked
24 Trustee Bernal and wished him well in his new endeavors.

25
26 **9. ADJOURNMENT**

27
28 **The Town of Mesilla Trustees unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting. (Summary: Yes-4)**

29
30 **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:03 P.M.**

31
32
33 **APPROVED THIS 14TH DAY OF MARCH, 2015.**

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Nora L. Barraza
Mayor

ATTEST:

Cynthia Stoeher-Hernandez
Town Clerk/Treasurer